

This month's drawing winners!

The 50/50 winner in October was Dennis Gee. Blue ticket winners were Mark Davey- gold nugget. John London won the gold flakes & Clinton Strucheon a half dollar.

Every month we have two drawings. A 50/50 drawing for all attendees and a Blue ticket drawing for members only. 50% of the proceeds from the 50/50 goes to the club.

Bud Elliot's

Gold Nugget

Fine Gold Jewelry Gold Wire Jewelry
Jewelry Repair Colored Stones
Diamonds Castings
Prospecting Consulting
Bud & Helen Elliott I Buy Nuggets,
806-282-8194 Gold Finds, Scrap Gold
806-374-3168 And Silver

VALLE DE ORO DETECTORS

Garrett Fisher

METAL DETECTOR & PROSPECTING SUPPLIES

Amarillo, Texas
(806) 381-5886

The Prospectors Shop
Est. 1981

Authorized Dealer for
Whites Bounty Hunter Teknetics



Personal Training, Consultation
& Recovery
806-376-4091
Toll Free 1-866-881-5056

AMARILLO PROSPECTORS & TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

President: JOHN LONDON

First VP: DENNIS GEE, in charge of arranging for programs

Second VP: RODNEY LAUBHAN, events coordinator

Sec/Treasurer: Skip Kendrick

Board Members: KEITH FERGUSON, BUD ELLIOTT, Mark Davey & Jim Nichols

Club News

Welcome to the October 2009 edition of the Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Newsletter

~~~~~

At our September meeting the program was presented by Skip Kendrick and Mark Davey. Skip covered "Dutch Oven Cooking" and Mark backed him up with camp fire and outdoor cooking techniques.

What a heck of a show! We all found it a lot of fun and informative.

Thanks Skip & mark for a very good program.

~~~~~

Our "Find of the Month" winners for October 2009 were Jim Nichols, Treasure Hunter and Clinton Strucheon, Prospector.

Jim's find was a man's white gold ring. Clintons entry was North Carolina gold

Congratulations Guys

~~~~~

Our club website is on line. The address is:

www.amarillotreasure.com

~~~~~

Our program for October will be on "Testing Gold, Silver and Diamonds. Bud Elliott will present the program and test items for members. If you have some jewelry to test, bring it to the meeting.

Board of directors had their meeting at 5:00 P M, Thursday, November 5th @ Gander Mountain.



STOUT GOLD AND SILVER

TOM STOUT
Manager

806/374-8698
2300 West 7th
Amarillo, Texas 79106

This is your club and we want to hear your opinions.

All club members have the right to be heard. If you want to discuss an item during the open meeting, just raise your hand and you will be recognized.

To be added to the meeting agenda, please call or email me and your topic will be put in the news letter.

Your opinions are important to the health of the club.

Use your voice!

Board Meeting notes from 11/56/09

- 1- John & Anita London will print the ballots for AP&THA elections.
- 2- Ballots will be passed out at the sign-up table Tuesday night.
- 3- Christmas party gift and prize details were finalized. The per person/plate cost was revised to include gratuity and will be \$12. Each member wishing to be part of the White elephant gift exchange should bring a gift costing between \$10-\$15 and wrapped.
- 4- Treasure hunter of the year ballots will be passed out at the meeting. We will vote on this Tuesday. The ballots will be counted by a third, non member, party. The winner will be announced at the Christmas party.
- 5- The board approved pre-payment to Jim Nichols for misc gift purchases, club cards and float banners.
- 6- We decided to combine our Chili cook-off with an adopt a park hunt on November 14th.
- 7- Jim Nichols will have more on the "Float" and the December 4th parade at Tuesday's meeting.
- 8- Our club hunt at Nara Visa N M has been postponed until 2010.

A **Treasure Hunter of the Year** award to be presented at our annual Christmas party.

Members will vote by secret ballot at the November meeting, Tuesday, 11/10/09.

The Award will be a jacket, details TBA Tuesday

Criteria: A Person who has exhibited best treasure hunter, done most for club, and

other things during the year.

We will combine prospecting and coin/treasure hunting into one award. Votes will be counted by a non club member. All AP&THA members are eligible. All ballots will be counted by a third party, non member. We will not know the results until the Christmas party on December 8th.

Club officer and board member elections will also be held **Tuesday 11/10/0-9.**

Nominees are: President—Mark Davey

1st V P-Toby Shedd, 2nd V P Jim Nichols #1 board slot, 2 yr-Rodney Laubhan, #2 board slot, 2yr-Mike Darnel

Board members with one yr of service remaining are: Keith Ferguson, Bud Elliott and Skip Kendrick

John London will serve one year on the board as immediate past president.

There will be space on the ballot for write in candidates.

Proper Target Recovery with your metal detector

By Dan Breitenstein

The general public perception of Metal Detecting has suffered greatly in the past few years. Most of this is due to a sudden influx of new hobbyists who have left our public and private lands looking like a crater filled moonscape, but there is nothing "filled" about the craters they leave behind. They have taken to the field in droves and gone about happily digging holes with the misconception that maybe God would refill them. Every day I read about another park, city, or large relic site that's been closed to detecting due to the careless behavior of a hobbyist that still has no idea what they did wrong.

If you're reading this and know you're guilty of leaving your holes unfilled, don't be pissed off by what I have to say, keep reading and learn the error of your ways and your path to redemption. Proper target recovery etiquette is just a few short sentences away.

There are several methods of target recovery that can be used to make it look like you've never been there and the ground was never disturbed. All of these methods will work well, but the first thing you need to learn is how to pinpoint the target with your detector. This doesn't take a rocket scientist, it takes practice and patience. I've watched folks get a signal and drop to their knees to dig without even trying to draw an "X" with the coil over the target. Needless to say, many of them dig holes you could damn near crawl into and still don't find their original target. You need to learn to sweep side to side and then forward and back to find the general location of your target. You might

be trying to pinpoint a Buick (not fun). Determine to the best of your ability how big you think the target is before you dig. If you have an all-metals mode on your detector, this can be done with greater ease. After all, even if you're digging in Aunt Martha's yard, I'm sure she doesn't want a major excavation.

The first method I want to talk about is cutting a plug. I like to use a soil knife or similar digger and cut a 3"-4" round plug in the sod. No matter how messy I am filling the hole back in, the plug will be placed back over the hole (green side up) to cover my mess. Some people carry a hand towel with them and place all the loose dirt on the towel making a much cleaner work area. Usually, I can find the target somewhere in the bottom of the plug. Once I remove the plug, I simply wave it over the coil to see if the target is still in it. Many people don't realize it, but if you lay the coil near the hole, you can wave the cut plug or handfuls of dirt over the top or bottom of the coil. The signal goes both directions and will go right through your hand (harmlessly). The downside of the plug cutting method is that dry weather will make the grass in the plug die out temporarily. A few good soaking rains will bring it back and the landowner will probably let you hunt there again.

A variation of this method is to "trap door" the plug by leaving one side still connected to the adjoining sod. Only cutting three sides of a four-side hole and swinging the plug up like a trap does this nicely. Leave the trap door connected if possible and you stand a better chance of not having the grass die out. It will still die to a certain extent, but not as severely.

The "probe method" is one of the most popular recovery methods used today by coin shooters. This is done by inserting a probe (lots of folks use a screwdriver) straight down into the ground where you think the target is located. They keep inserting it in different places until they hit the coin. They usually move over off the coin and try to get under it with the probe to pop it out of the ground. This method disturbs the ground the least and is great for coins. A word of warning belongs here because careless probing damages many coins. Don't get in a hurry. Try and insert the probe slowly.

Let's talk a bit about electronic pinpoint probes. These little devices can save you a lot of heartache and agony. Most dealers carry a probe of some type and they range in price from around \$50 to over \$100. They are not built to be pushed into the ground, they are built to help you find a target in a hole that's already dug or in the loose dirt. I've gotten fairly good at pinpointing with my main detector before I dig, but just about every time I go on a hunt, I need to use the probe at least once. Many times I'll find the coin stuck up on the inside wall of the hole or realize that I need to dig a bit deeper or off to one side. Most of these probes have a maximum range of about an inch. I use Crazy Ed's Pinpoint Probe and have had very good luck with it.

Diggers ... there are dozens of them out there on the market. Almost every detectorist I know started out buying one of those cheap K-Mart garden trowels and they bent or broke it within a week. They simply were not designed for cutting plugs like we detectorists cut. They were designed for light garden work and nothing more. Personally, I torture a digger beyond belief. I dig through gravel and rock hard soil on a regular basis with no respect for the digger at all. Invest in a good quality digger and it will last you for years. Keep it sharp and your life will be a lot easier. Trying to cut through sod with a dull digger damages the sod and makes the job much worse than it

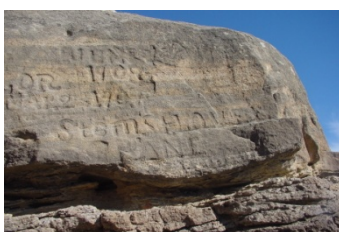
has to be. Many of the diggers you buy from commercial dealers need to be sharpened before you ever use them.

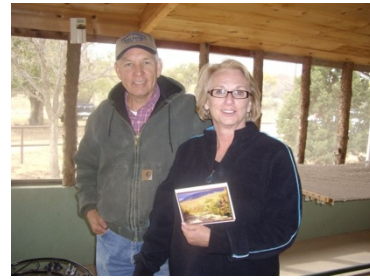
Trash is another subject we need to discuss. Digging a hole and finding a pull-tab is frustrating to say the very least. There is, however, a good thing that happens when you find a pull-tab ... you are given the opportunity to take it home with you and throw it out. If you are new to detecting, you will quickly learn that you'll be back to this same place again someday and you will probably dig that same pull tab up again if you're lazy and leave it in the hole. Trash belongs in a trashcan, not left in a hole somewhere. I throw mine in the back of my pickup and clean it out periodically when I get tired of it rolling around back there.

Underground wires are hazards that we all need to beware of. I've personally hit phone and cable TV lines and was fortunate to not cut them while digging. I've heard of others who were not so lucky and had to pay the Phone Company to come out and splice the line back together. That can make for a fairly expensive day of metal detecting.

Broken glass and other sharp objects can be very treacherous while digging. I can't count the number of broken jars and glass I've found. And yes, it was still razor sharp after years underground. I'm always cautious when I stick my grubby paws down in a dark hole and start feeling around. Some people wear gloves when they dig which is a good idea and makes the job a bit safer.

We are all part of this wonderful hobby and we all need to be responsible when it comes to target recovery. Take your trash home with you and refill the holes you dig. And remember.... "green side up"!!





The pictures are from our club outings in October.

We were very fortunate to have been invited to hunt at Cheyenne Station, West of Tascosa . The ranch, owned by Lenny and Linda Sadler , has been in operation since 1879 . Everyone had a great time, enjoying the hunt, fine food and wonderful hospitality.

Our second hunt was held at Camp Don Harrington. The day started out cool, but warmed quickly. There were many coins found including wheat pennies and some silver coinage . What a great way to end the month.

We want to welcome new member, Trent Butcher

And Last but certainly not least, are the winners of our door prize drawings. They are: Goerge Baca, Mark Davey, Rodney Laubhan, Dan Ferguson and Rhonda Ferguson.

Congratulations to all winners.

See ya'll Tuesday night

John London

And Last but certainly not least, are the winners of our door prize drawings. They are: Don Kennedy, Keith Ferguson, Jack Hixon, Paul Wall and Dan Ferguson.

Congratulations to all winners.

See ya'll Tuesday night

John London

Code OF Ethics of Treasure Hunters

- **I WILL** respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- **I WILL fill all excavations.**
- **I WILL** appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- **I WILL** use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- **I WILL** build fires in designated or safe places only.
- **I WILL** leave gates as found.
- **I WILL** remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- **I WILL NOT** litter.
- **I WILL NOT** destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- **I WILL NOT** tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.

